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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 /063 W
-----064599 202244Z /75

R 202044Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4994

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒ Release) (☐ Excise) (☐ Deny)
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: (☐ In Part) (☒ In Full)
(☐ Classify as) (☐ Extend as) (☐ Downgrade to)
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 2064

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT DISAPPEARANCES IN ARGENTINA

REF: A STATE 66723 B BUENOS AIRES A-23

1. EMBASSY HAS INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE EVEN A "GUESSTIMATE" OF THE NUMBERS OF RECENT DISAPPEARANCES. HOWEVER, BASED ON THOSE DISAPPEARANCE CASES REPORTED TO THIS EMBASSY AND THE LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION FAMILIARES DE DESAPARECIDOS Y DETENIDOS, WE SEE THE FOLLOWING TRENDS: SINCE MID 1976 THE TREND LINE OF DISAPPEARANCES HAS BEEN DOWN (SEE GRAPH ATTACHED TO BUENOS AIRES A-23)

THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT DIP IN DISAPPEARANCES RECENTLY DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1977. (NOTE OF POSSIBLE INTEREST: SECRETARY VANCE VISITED ARGENTINA ON NOVEMBER 21, 1977.)

THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL RISE IN DISAPPEARANCES IN DECEMBER 1977, IN PART DUE TO OPERATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST URUGUAYAN REFUGEES.

ALTHOUGH THE TIME LAG IN FAMILIES REPORTING DISAPPEARANCES TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES, SUCH AS THE EMBASSY, MAKES ANY JUDGEMENTS ABOUT OUR 1978 NUMBERS PREMATURE, WE SENSE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A

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REDUCTION IN DISAPPEARANCES DURING THE JANUARY FEBRUARY PERIOD FROM THOSE OF DECEMBER, 1977.

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UNCLASSIFIED

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WE SEE A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE FACTORS
CONTRIBUTING TO THIS FELT REDUCTION-- LACK OF TERRORIST
TARGETS, INCREASED TRAINING OF MILITARY UNITS IN
RESPONSE TO BEAGLE CHANNEL TENSIONS, REACTION TO THE
INTERNATIONAL OUTRAGE OVER THE DECEMBER MOTHERS AND
NUNS DISAPPEARANCES ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE
UPCOMING JUNE WORLD CUP MATCHES. AND LASTLY, THE
ARGENTINE VACATION SEASON.
CASTRO

[REDACTED]
NNN

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